New tea gardens

†177. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain industrial houses have submitted a proposal for plantation of new tea gardens in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per available information, no proposals have been submitted by industrial houses for plantation of new tea gardens in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Revival of old tea estates in Uttaranchal

†178. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain steps are being taken by the Tea Board to revive old tea estates in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the area of old tea estates in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Tea Board has extended financial assistance by way of subsidy for establishing a nucleus tea plantation by M/s. Kumaon Mandal Vikash Nigam at Kausani by reviving an old tea estate and bringing more area under tea. A processing factory has also been set up in the plantations. The existing tea gardens in Uttaranchal are practically non-functional owing to long neglect and the bushes have become aged and unproductive. The revival can be brought about through rejuvenation pruning and consolidation besides uprooting of old and uneconomic sections, replanting of the same with improved variety of planting materials and adoption of scientific agricultural practices. Considering the neglected state of the existing tea gardens, as a special consideration, Tea Board has allowed reclamation of the earlier abandoned tea areas for rejuvenation and replacement planting. Tea Board has also set up an office at Almora to provide guidance

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.